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HINTS TO ANGLERS

BY

ADAM DRYDEN

WITH MAPS

250.g.
171.

HINTS TO ANGLERS.



1882
250. g. 171





HINTS TO ANGLERS

BY

ADAM DRYDEN

ILLUSTRATED WITH MAPS.

EDINBURGH
ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK
1862

250. g. 171


BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA ·
DOMINA
NUS
ILLUMINATIO
MEA

HINTS TO ANGLERS.

Fly-Fishing.

THE first great requisite in fly-fishing is to be able to throw the line dexterously. This art can only be acquired by practice. The error that most anglers commit, is allowing their line to remain much too long in the water. They allow it to float slowly down stream under the expectation that, in its course, the flies will come within the scope of some trout's eyesight; and that the fish will certainly be attracted by the lure, when once he has seen it. Now, in the earlier months of the year, that is, till about the month of May, this system of fishing may do well enough; indeed it is best then to fish down stream. The trout are neither so active nor so wary as they become, generally speaking, shortly after the month of May has begun. But whenever they

[illegible]. It is a matter of much
to get eager or excited, as you will
make all kinds of blunders. Get a
fish rapidly upwards, throwing in all
in all kinds of water. You will o
where the river is not four inches de
hot weather you will find the very
the best. By throwing your flies ov
water, you will gain information ev
unsuccessful casts, as to what sort of
are not then lying in.

If you raise a good trout without
severely, throw twice or thrice to som
after giving him which respite, if you
look drop neatly and softly over him,
certain to kill him. Always stand

away in shoals. Yet, if you can contrive to keep out of sight, you may capture them.

With regard to striking, the slightest motion, just sufficient to tighten the line, is enough to hook a trout. Fishing in the manner that I have described above, any angler will return after a day's sport with a heavy basket. Even if he is not quick sighted enough to see the fish rise, so as to strike them instantly, many are quite certain to hook themselves. Anglers generally think that a deep pool is the place in which they are sure to find trout. This is a mistake; you ought to fish twenty or thirty yards above or below the pool; for any fish which may be in it, it is almost impossible to take. It is a point of great consequence to know in what kind of water trout are likely to be feeding during the different seasons of the year; but it is impossible to lay down rules for this, so much depending upon the weather. But, if you begin by throwing over all kinds of water, you will soon see where the trout are to be found. It will soon appear whether they are feeding in the pools or streams, in deep or in shallow water.

I can fix no particular day in spring at which fly-fishing may be said to begin; but when you see a full bud upon the thorn bush, you may then expect to find the flies beginning to come upon the river, and this is the signal for the angler to resume his pastime. Yet you may kill trout with the fly,

spring, the angler will observe th
comes on the river, which it does at
the day, the trout will not rise at a
is, that at this season the flies, instead
more or less on the water all day, as
mer, come on fitfully, in great swa
the swarm does come on, the angler
except with the very finest tackle ;
it, he will not do much, the trout
collected together in deep water, wh
current. But whenever the flies com
separate ; each of them going to h
spot. If the angler tries to allure th
are in the deep water, he will be giv
necessary trouble. The colder the

over again. Both before and after the flies come on, the finest tackle should be used. If the angler sees a large trout rise repeatedly, he should place himself opposite the spot, and cast frequently, about two yards above the spot where the trout rose ; and he will seldom fail to catch him. Whenever the flies go off, you might fancy that the fish had quitted the river. You will not see one moving. The reason is that during the "take," they keep all the flies they catch in their mouths ; and when, by the disappearance of the fly, they find that they can get no more, they go to the bottom to gorge their prey.

Always keep to the bottom of the pool. By "pool," I mean any sheet of water where the current is gentle. You must never stand more than an inch or two higher than the level of the water. This is a most important point in the art of keeping out of the trouts' sight. Never allow any one to fish opposite to you in a narrow river. Any one doing so will spoil your sport by frightening the fish. If you fairly hook a trout and it gets off, even though it be a very large one, don't waste time with trying to hook it again. Such a thing has been done, but the chance of doing it is very small indeed.

In large rivers like the Tweed, I have said that when the trout are taking you should confine yourself to a select spot. In small rivers you should always move rapidly over the ground. But of course when you are killing well you will not move so fast

...that you are not
down the stream. On the cont
up the stream, and let your hook
you, but not past you. You sho
and if you have a good pool on the
fishing from, fish that pool before y
side; for, in landing a trout hool
site side, you would frighten all
pool next you by bringing it acr
up stream, as you must always do
must cross and recross, so as alwa
shallow part of the water next t
the water is still and slow, you
often. If a trout takes your fly at
't on the instant that it falls on t
as any time for ...

mean to say that the angler may not use larger ones at some seasons. In the latter end of May, and during the whole of June, you will see great quantities of flies of different colours and sizes on the river, yet to try to imitate these, either in colours or in size, is, I think, a mistake. You will lose more than you will gain by doing so. The great points, I have always found, are light dressing and fine gut; and any hook larger than No. 2 Addlington cannot be dressed on fine gut. The large hook will cut the fine gut, which will cause a great loss both of time and tackle, and, perhaps, of the even more valuable commodities of temper and patience.

You should observe the colour of the flies on the water, and, having done so, put artificial ones on your casting line as like the insect as possible. I repeat, be sure to have fine gut. Most anglers have immense quantities of different kinds of flies. For my part I have only six varieties for the whole year; and I often fish with three or four on my casting line all of the same kind.

My favourite flies are as follows:—The black spider, to be used on a bright day and in a small, clear river, such as Gala or Leader—a coloured fly is preferable in the Tweed. In a dull day, both in large and small rivers, coloured flies are the best. Drab is a good colour, and the softest feathers should be used. Those of the corn bunting, yellow hammer, lark, starling (grey and black), sparrow, and

chaffinch are good, also the thrush, early in the year. I am very partial to the hare's ear. The grey wing, with a black starling hackle is a good fly, but the hackles get soon destroyed by the trouts' teeth. I am very partial to spiders made from the outside of the wing of any of the above-mentioned birds. One side of the feather should be taken off. They are easily destroyed, but they are the most killing flies that I know; the reason being that there is very little dressing upon them, and flies which are not bulky are always the most successful. I generally fish with three hooks upon my gut line, the second one being about a yard above the first, the third about two feet above the second. If you have a black spider, and are fishing in small clear waters, make it the end hook, and let the upper hooks, or "bobs," as they are called, be attached to the gut casting line by not more than three inches of gut. The gut should be stained blue.

Worm.

In worm-fishing, if the water is of good size, I prefer a 15 to 18 foot rod, as light as possible. The casting line should consist of 5 or 6 lengths of triple gut. In fishing pools, you should have 12 or 13 lengths of single gut added to the triple, but in *streams*, 5 or 6 lengths will be sufficient. I con-

sider what is now called "*Stewart's tackle*" to be the best, and I always fish with it. The best worm fishing is to be got at the bottom of a large pool, and I prefer the shallow side. You must wade up the middle of the pool, if possible; and be very cautious not to make any disturbance in the water, as, though the trout cannot hear, they have very wonderful powers of sight. Cast alternately on each side of you. A good breeze is advantageous in fishing the pools. I prefer the brandling to any other kind of worms. I use No. 3 Addlingtons for the *Stewart tackle*, and I would recommend a No. 8 to those who use the single tackle. It is of the utmost importance to have good worms. I like them small and clear. You should carry two bags for a day's sport; for the heat of the hand, in taking out the worms, spoils them in course of an hour or two. You should put about a teaspoonful of water occasionally into the bag that you have in use.

The brandling worms should be kept in a jar of moss with a few inches of water at the bottom. You should change both moss and water every day. Earth worms should be kept in earth until three days before you use them; they should then be put into damp moss, and the moss changed each day. This is troublesome, but it is of the utmost consequence to have your bait in order. Both the triple gut line and the single ought to taper downwards. The tackle ought to be on the very finest gut. And

I may here remark that in all clear water fishing, without any exception, fine tackle is of the utmost consequence. I have often great difficulty in procuring gut fit for fishing in clear waters in summer, when the trout are well fed and shy. You must of course fish up the stream. Steal cautiously along; and, when wading, as I have said, do not make the water heave before you. If the weather is cold, you will do best in deepish water; when the weather is hot, you will kill best in the shallowest. Keep little line in the water; for two reasons—in the first place, the less you have under water your bait will float down the more naturally, and when the trout attacks it, he will not find the resistance that he would otherwise find. You will generally find a trout lying in a deepish run under a bank, behind a stone, or where a bush overhangs, and in all kinds of sheltered situations in the neighbourhood of streams. Cast frequently. If you throw to the right bit, the trout will take you at once. If you throw to the wrong, he wont take you at all. With the *Stewart tackle*, as a general rule, you should strike quickly, but gently, almost immediately after you see the twitter of the line. But this, to some extent, depends on how the trout are taking. If you are losing a great many, you may try the effect of giving them a little longer time. The tackle is used without a sinker. There is no branch of angling which affords more exhilarating

sport than that of worm-fishing, pursued in the manner given above. The season begins in the end of May, and may be said to finish about the beginning of August. The trout are in their very best condition, strong and wary, yet not wary enough to elude the skill of the cunning angler; for, equipped in the manner that I have mentioned, and with dexterity and caution, you may kill trout in the clearest and stillest water, and even when there is no breeze.

I might enlarge upon many other points connected with worm-fishing, but I think it is better not to burden the angler with too many instructions There are certain rules applicable both to worm and fly-fishing. Exercise keen observation. Learn as speedily as possible where the trout are feeding. Practice alone will enable you to throw neatly and precisely to the spot where experience has shewn you that the fish is likely to be. In nine cases out of ten he will take your fly or worm immediately, if he is going to take it at all. Fish rapidly, therefore, and never throw your line without aiming at the spot where you expect to find him. In fishing a stream with worm, you may no doubt allow your bait to run down so that a trout may seize it on the way; but, in the worm season, you will kill best in the runs and corners such as I have described above, and these you must fish rapidly.

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as the Tweed, it is not very succ
midsummer. The best place to
is in large pools; and the best
a fresh or *spate* in the river. St
fished when the water is clear. T
with minnow just in such shelte
have alluded to in worm-fishing.
tackle as fine as in fly-fishing, if t
but if the water is heavy, you may
use two hooks—one goes through
minnow—the other, which is two
along and through the body. In
minnow should not be more than
quarter in length. In muddy wa
may be used. Whenever [illegible]

against this danger in it, than in any other kind of angling. You should use two swivels, and see that they spin well; if they do not, they are useless. Small minnows are the best. My plan for catching them is the following:—I have a piece of dark-coloured cotton sewed up, so as to form a kind of bag about two feet wide, and one foot deep. The bottom of this bag is weighted with lead—when I see a shoal of minnows in shallow water, forming a kind of bay at the side of the river, I get between them and the main stream. By advancing cautiously, dragging the bag along the bottom, you may thus capture great numbers—you should have salt with you, and a jar; you may then pickle your minnows on the spot. When you wish to preserve them for future use, when you come home, spread them out on a board until they are quite dry—you must turn them occasionally, when drying them. Then put them into jars, covering them so as to be air tight. In minnow-fishing, throw your bait across the stream; so as to alight on any likely spot opposite to you. By pulling the line backwards and forwards, work it to the edge of the side on which you are fishing. When once the line is straight, raise slowly and throw again. As much as possible, keep always a bend in the line, so that when the trout strikes the minnow, he may feel as little resistance as possible. If your line is straight from the point of the rod to the bait, you may raise

twenty fish and not hook one. And if you strik instead of slackening when the trout rises, you wi have no better success. You must slacken *instantly* I might say simultaneously; give him a few second then strike gently but decidedly. Never strik violently on any occasion, either in minnow or an other kind of fishing. It does not require muc force to put a hook into a trout's mouth. B striking violently, you run a great risk of tearin the hook out after it is in, or of breaking you tackle, if the fish is large.

Creeper and May Fly, etc.

Creepers may be used with success from th middle of April. They are generally very plenti ful at that period. The system of fishing is muc the same as with worm, only in rougher water. A bright day is necessary; but the trout will tak early in the morning in dull weather. I use tw Addlington's No. 6, tied one immediately above th other. The end hook goes through the lower par of the body, and the upper hook through th shoulders of the creeper. Give the trout time, an strike as in worm fishing. May fly is used in th same manner, only in finer waters. You will fin creepers most plentiful near the top of a strea *and* about the edge of the water. In cold weathe

they will be almost in it. They are generally carried in a tin box about four inches deep, with holes in the top. The May fly is found in similar places, but where the stones are dry near the water. I generally carry them in a bag; and when I need one, I open the bag a little. One is then sure to creep up. I catch him at once with one hand, and tighten the bag with the other. This is the most simple way of carrying them. The May fly is very deadly for the first week after its appearance, which is generally about the 25th of May; but after the first week, the trout do not take it greedily for some time. Before the disappearance of the fly, however, they return to it, though never with the same keenness of appetite as they shewed at first. You must fish with a large rod, and the trout will take the fly in any stream where it is to be found.

Salmon Roe.

I will not enter on the question of the fairness or unfairness of roe-fishing; but give my system, and leave every man to judge for himself. If the water is muddy, I use a No. 8 Addlington. I fish with one hook, and the line must be leaded according to the strength and depth of the water. In a muddy stream, a party of two or three may do very well. If you are fishing alone, you may put on

two hooks about 18 inches apart. When the trout have fairly begun to take, however, it will then be better to remove the uppermost hook. Always stand on the shallow side of a pool, and don't throw far in. Confine yourself to a space of from 10 to 20 yards, going over it again and again. It is not uncommon to fish in the same place for twenty minutes before you get a nibble, particularly in the summer months. You must strike sharply (but not violently) whenever you feel a bite. Generally speaking, you must not give so much time as in worm-fishing. Don't throw any roe into the water before beginning, as some anglers do. This is only a waste of material. Trout will take roe at any season; but in summer you will be much annoyed with eels. In pools they often render the use of roe impossible. In clear water, fishing with roe, you must use a small hook and very fine tackle. You need not be disheartened if you see no fish when you begin. In a little while you will see a good many below you. Don't stay long in one place—speak of clear-water fishing—but keep moving down. A junction of any rivers generally affords a good roe cast. Salmon and grilse are not easily taken with this lure. I never caught any with it, though I have tried it at all seasons, and in every description of place.

In the autumnal months, you should choose a *ford or* stream which salmon are in the habit of

quenting for the purpose of spawning; and if there be any sea trout near, so much the better. Begin by throwing your bait two or three yards behind the "redds," as the spawning beds are called; and having done so, follow down the stream. If it is rapid, put on a heavy sinker. You should first fish near the edge, and as the trout cease to take, throw further and further till you cannot easily manage a longer line. Then go a little down, and you will generally get a good trout about twenty yards from where you began. You must be careful, however, not to disturb the salmon, or you will not do much after they are gone. Trout killed in this way are all strong and in good condition; for it is only such that can live in so rapid water. It is therefore necessary to have strong tackle for this sort of fishing, and hooks two sizes larger than what are commonly used for roe. You will, in this way, often kill trout gorged with the new laid roe. I have sometimes squeezed a handful out of one. I once killed a trout near Dryburgh with 78 eggs in its mouth; and in addition to that, he had two par in his gullet, though he did not exceed a pound in weight.

Minnow and worm may be fished in the same way in winter; but the salmon will be apt to take them.

My system of preparing roe is as follows:—If it is not thoroughly ripe, it must be washed with water so as to clear it of all membrane and blood.

Then put about five ounces of salt to each pound of roe ; stir it, gently at first, so that the salt may not break the globules ; stir until the whole gets jellied. Then drain off the brine by means of a sieve, put it on a plate, and dry slowly at the fire. If you then roll it in cloth to take the damp thoroughly off, it will be fit for immediate use. Nothing but salt must be used ; saltpetre will totally destroy it. To preserve it, put it into air-tight pots.

Some people prefer the roe of the salmon to that of the bull trout, or sea trout ; I myself consider them quite equal in point of merit. But there is another kind which is the most deadly of all, viz. that of the common river trout ; it is fit for use about the end of August ; it is prepared by simply salting ; it cannot be kept more than a few weeks nor so long, unless in an air-tight vessel. A very good plan is to take a little salt with you when you go to fish ; you can take the roe out of any trout you may kill, then rub it in the salt until the moisture is pretty well out of the roe ; you may then use it immediately. You will find this the deadliest bait of all. Trout will take almost any bait, from a midge to a mouse ; but those which I have enumerated are the best. I have myself killed a trout with a full-grown mouse in its inside. Grasshoppers are a good bait, but they are difficult to be got. Gentle and cod bait are also good. When fishing with the artificial fly, you may often use the cod bait

with advantage. Put it on the fly hooks, and fish quite in the same way as if it were not there; you should have it on when the sun shines; when it is cloudy you must fish without it. It is often useful in the month of August. The grub of the wasp is sometimes a good bait; you must use it in deep water, behind some projection of the bank; you must make it roll round as much as possible. The May fly tackle is used in this kind of fishing. Many large trout may be killed in this way.

STREAMS OF THE FORTH, AND NEAR EDINBURGH.

The Esk above Dalhousie is a good trouting stream. It divides into two branches. The one on the right is the Roseberry; the other is Temple Burn. One day I killed in the Esk thirteen dozen of trout which weighed 23 pounds. The Water of Leith is a good stream above Balerno Bridge. Four dozen and a half trout taken in this water weigh on an average 14 pounds. The Almond, which is the next tributary of the Frith of Forth, is the most difficult water from which to take trout that I ever fished in. But the trout are of excellent quality. They seem to be of the same nature as those found in lochs. They do not lie still watching for food, but keep always moving; so that after taking a fly, you will probably find that the fish has moved some

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Dalhousie Sta.

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Carron is a good stream a few miles fron
Below the village of Denny the trout
but there are good skellies or chub to
little above Denny there is good trout
the best of this water is for about a mile
both above and below Old Carron Bridge
the best water for May fly and creeper
had any experience of, and the bait is e
by the river. There is also good artificia


Dalhousie Stn.



at the same place; for though the water is rather rough, there are many pools full of good trout. Higher up, is the Carron Fog. It is much too still for fishing, but further up you will come to a good little stream. In the Bannockburn I have killed good basketsful of trout, but, on the whole, I cannot say much in its praise. We now come to the Devon, running into the Forth on the north side, a little above Alloa. There are few rivers in the south of Scotland which can be compared with the Devon as a trouting stream. The size and quality of the trout are both good. The best are to be found below the village of Tillicoultry; but at certain seasons they are not easily caught, owing to the stillness of the water. I should say that the best part of the Devon is from Dollar upwards, but a good basketful may be taken between Tillicoultry and Dollar. The average size in the upper water is six to the pound. The Allan, on the same side of the Forth, affords fair fly-fishing from the Bridge of Allan up to Kemback, a distance of six miles. But the river runs roughly, and its bed consists of rocks and large stones, which make fishing in it unpleasant. The Allan has no tributaries worth mentioning, except the Knaik, falling in above Ardoch Bridge. In the Allan and its tributaries the trout vary very much in size. During the summer months, you will find in them both salmon, grilse, and sea trout, and the fishing is open to the public.

The Teith is the next tributary of th need say little about it, as it is mostly and little worth preserving. There are in it, but they are not numerous, and it to catch them. It is also infested with Keltie runs into the Teith a little below The two streams are of similar character is the best lure, or, if minnows cannot tail. **But par tail I consider at all times** bait to a minnow.

The Forth itself is one of the worst fishing in that I ever tried. It runs deep and the trout are scarce; but it abou Of the Earn in Perthshire I cannot sa praise as a stream for common trout, bu stocked with perch, and sea trout are These vary in weight from one pound to half. It is not difficult to take them river is a little swelled. The small ordi flies I have always found better than ones. The sea trout are often to be caug rently the most unlikely spots. When t heavy, you may kill them with worm.

Clyde and the Endrick.

I shall first mention the Endrick, into Loch Lomond. This is a good





ıgling. It contains excellent trout, many of them ɛceeding a pound in weight, and their quality is ɾst rate. There are few trout below the falls of artness ; but pike are plentiful there, and salmon ɔe to be found at the proper season. The trouting ı the upper part of the Endrick is not so good as it ıght to be, owing to the reservoirs for the mills ten causing large parts of the channel to be left ry ; so that when the mills are not working, you ill often have an apparently good stretch of water hich does not contain a single trout.

The main stream, above where the burn from the ɔnd joins, affords good fishing for some miles. Then ɔove the falls of Fintry you will find the trout lentiful. But owing to the circumstance which I ıve mentioned above, I would advise no one to go ı the Endrick for a day's fishing without either nowing the water himself, or being in company ith some one who does. The lower part of the lyde is, generally speaking, not good ; though there some nice looking water from Hamilton up to the lls. The Mouse, which joins the Clyde a little be-w Lanark, is a deceitful water. A little above leghorn station, you will find good streams, and ell stocked with trout resembling those of the lyde ; but, above Cleghorn, there is a stretch of any miles of water so perfectly still that except in flood or high wind it is impossible to fish in it minnow will be found to be the best lure. Owing

to the height and steepness of the bank, a landin net will be found advantageous. The Clyde itsel is very still for some distance above Lanark ; bu this part of it contains many large trout, and also number of pike. Fishing during the night, with large-sized fly hook, I have found to be the mos effectual plan in this part of the Clyde. My favourit parts of this river, are, however, from Symington t Lamington ; from Lamington to Abington ; and fron Abington to Elvanfoot. Early in the season, o when the spring is backward, Symington is the bes point to start from. Clyde and all its tributarie abound in good trout. It would be difficult to stat their average size, but there are few under fou ounces ; and as there are no par, whenever you ge a nibble you may be sure that it is either a trout o a grayling.

In appearance, the Clyde trout are inferior t those of the Tweed ; but in point of size and qualit those of the Tweed are not superior ; for the Clyd trout make up in thickness for their deficiency i breadth.

Tributaries of the Solway.

I will now mention some of the streams tha join the Solway Firth on the Scotch side. Of th Nith, I may say that I consider it one of the wor *trouting streams* in Scotland. So far as the mai

...ough and sooty. The main branch

stream goes it is in fact good for nothing; but some of its tributaries afford fair enough sport. The Cluden is, I think, the best of them. In the proper season, it abounds with a kind of sea-trout called the herling. This is a fish which on an average weighs half a pound. It is easily taken by any of the ordinary lures for trout, and affords good sport. There is a small stream called the Old Water, which joins the Cluden about five miles above the junction with the Nith. This water contains splendid trout; and any lure which may be seasonable may be used in it to advantage. The Annan abounds in all kinds of migratory fish; but it is not a good trouting stream. This fact is solely owing to the amazing quantity of par which infest it; for there are good trout in the Annan, and a great many of them also. The best rivers in this neighbourhood, however, are the water of Milk, flowing between Lockerbie and Ecclefechan, and the Avon, which flows near Beattock. In both of these rivers you will find herling and the ordinary sea-trout. The Milk is the better of the two. The Esk and the Liddle, which are nearly of equal size, unite about two miles above Longtown. The Liddle affords little fishing until you get about three miles above the junction; it then becomes a fair trouting stream. Above the village of Castletown it divides into two. The one on the left (going up) is the Hermitage. It is a good trouting stream, but rather rough and stony. The main branch

north, the Esk is joined by the
stream with a clear bottom. Th
suited for May fly and minnow.
got easily at the proper season, b
be provided with minnows from
as he will find none in the Ew
good tributaries quite up to its s

The Esk is preserved for t
above Langholm; but higher u
strictions. It rises in a very hill
which circumstance, it is often fl
rain falling in the lower country
runs. Owing to the violence of
the river is swelled, the brood o
May fly is destroyed, at least it is
I attribute the fact of this insect
on the banks of the Esk. Nor a
in it: yet it is the best river f

Tweed and its Tributaries.

Tweed may fairly be characterised as a good trouting river. Many of its upper tributaries are excellent. I will spend no time in treating of those places which are preserved. The best day's sport that I ever had in the lower part of the Tweed was near the village of Lessudden, at Merton Bridge. It was on a beautiful day in the end of May 1856, fishing with fly, I killed forty trouts weighing twenty-one pounds. The six largest weighed six pounds, and the next six weighed four pounds. There is a good spot below where the Dryburgh ferry-boat crosses the Tweed. The river there divides into two branches. They are both good; but I prefer the one on the Dryburgh side. If you fish first down the one and then up the other, you will find this a good day's angling. You must use fine tackle; and if you are fishing with artificial flies, they should be of a drab colour, or light grey. The trout are larger here than they are further up, and if the angler should happen to hook two at once, the chances are that they will break his line.

From Dryburgh to Leader foot there is very little water open to the public. But above this, and up to the source of the Tweed, there is only one piece of water preserved—that is Lord Somerville's.

which is seven miles above Peebles. also numerous burns, in which large dant. The Whiteadder enters the three miles above Berwick, on the l a capital trouting stream; which is c in a good measure to their being n its banks.

The Blackadder is much inferic adder in point of the quantity of contains. There are, however, man did quality and size, but they are w to be taken. The bottom of the ri of the Whiteadder, is foul, which is to anglers.

The Dye joins the Whiteadder macus. It is a capital stream when and towards the end of the year.

tributaries. The Glen is its main feeder. It is too still for good fishing, and is much infested with pike; but where the Coldstream and Wooler road crosses it, at a place called Copland, you will get some good fishing. A few miles up, two streams unite to form the Glen. The one on the left, going up, is called the College, the other the Bowmont. They have both their source in the Cheviot hills. The College is, generally speaking, too rapid for good fishing; but there are swarms of small trout in it. The most unskilful angler may capture these with the artificial fly in almost any number. But it also abounds with very large trout, which are not so easily caught. You will scarcely kill them except when the water is muddy. On such occasions you will find minnow a successful lure.

The Bowmont is larger than the College. For some miles above the junction it runs very still, with a muddy bottom. There are large trout in this still water, but it is difficult to catch them. When you have passed the still water, however, you come to beautiful trouting streams. They afford good sport for any method of angling. You will find minnow an excellent lure in the Bowmont. Above the village of Yetholm, the trout fall off in size, but increase very much in quantity. In the spring months, with fly, you may kill twelve to twenty dozen, if so disposed, almost any day. In summer, here as elsewhere, they grow more wary. I would

Cheviot burns in the spring or autum
There is generally a good supply of sea-t
Bowmont from the beginning of August
of the season. If you begin your day
mile below Yetholm, being favoured v
coloured water, you ought to kill one o
season I have mentioned. Either worm
is a good lure.

The Eden falls into the Tweed
below Kelso. It contains trout of splen
quality, but it is nearly all preserved
ficial fly in spring, and worm during th
the most successful lures in the Eden.

Teviot joins the Tweed at Kelso
excellent trouting river, and has ma
butaries. It is almost impossible to go
Teviot. Towards the mouth, you will
streams for worm fishing. All the way

but, generally speaking, not large. Much the best part of it lies above the village of Morebattle. The Oxnam runs in on the same side as the Kale, and is the next tributary. I consider it a bad trouting stream. We then come to the Jed, a little river which affords excellent sport to the angler. Worm is the most successful lure in the Jed. The trout are large and of good quality. Below Jedburgh, the fishing is not good. The Ale runs in from the opposite side. An immense number of lochs empty themselves into this stream. Many of these lochs contain excellent trout, and others pike and perch. In the Ale, the best place for fishing is, I think, about the village of Lilliesleaf. The trout vary greatly in size. In the course of a day, you may kill them from two ounces up to two pounds. The large ones are no doubt bred in the lochs. There are also pike in the Ale, but they do not annoy the trout angler. Rule is a good stream, but much annoyance will be felt from woods which overhang the banks. The Slitterick joins the Teviot at Hawick. There were good trout in it at one time, but it has been spoilt by drainage. The Borthwick joins two miles above Hawick, and the best fishing is about seven miles from Hawick, and is best after a flood. The Allan joins the Teviot four and a half miles above Hawick. It is the last tributary worth mentioning. I now return to the tributaries of the Tweed. It is joined by the Leader about

should say that the Leader has
superior. The most central place
tions is the village of Lauder. For
Lauder, and for three miles and a
water is excellent; and, still hig
several burns abounding in trout
rare quality. The Ellwand is th
It used to be a good stream, bu
spoilt by drainage and other cause
say about is that the angler shou
joins the Tweed a mile below the
ing town of Galashiels. You mu
Galashiels before you begin to fi
distance from the town and the
the largest trout in the Gala are
it requires fine tackle and a prac
them here, except with the cr

Lugate joins the Gala. I have always been successful with fly in the Lugate from its mouth up to Nethershiels; in it the worm is a successful lure. Most of the trout, however, are small, and when this is the case I prefer fly. Gala, above Stow up to Fountainhall, is an excellent water, abounding in trout; but they are inferior both in point of size and quality to those below Stow. They are, however, more easily taken. They average six to the pound. May is the best month of the year for the Gala. From Fountainhall up to the first bridge across the Heriot, the trout are still smaller, and still more easily taken. My favourite fishing ground, on the upper part of this water, is from about a mile above Fountainhall, where the Armit joins the Gala, upwards.

Armit is a good stream, and will afford good practice to a beginner with the worm. The Little Gala contains good trout, but it often becomes so small as to render fishing in it impossible. Heriot I need scarcely mention; as, for a long way up, the water has been spoilt, and it is not worth while to go above the spoilt water. There are small burns, no doubt, running in higher up, which contain trout; but in these you may kill the trout with a worm, a hook, and a piece of twine. No skill is required to take them, and consequently there is no sport. The Ettrick joins the Tweed between Selkirk and Galashiels. A mile from the foot, the trout are large,

and there is good fly-fishing; but the good water is of small extent, and when once you are past it the fishing both upwards and down to the foot of the Yarrow is bad. Nor can I say much in favour of the Yarrow. It is overrun with par, and except in a few pools fishing is needless. The Megget, running into St. Mary's Loch, is a good stream; but I like it better in the autumnal months than during spring or summer.

In both Ettrick and Yarrow you will find minnow a good lure; but you will require to get your bait elsewhere, as minnows are not to be found in these streams. I must, however, mention that there is good sport to be got from Ettrick Kirk to Bodsbeck Law. Here the angler will find splendid water, and he will also find himself within one and a half hour's walk of Moffat or of the Grey Mare's Tail. The little water Tim, which joins the Ettrick at the Kirk, and the Rankle burn, further down on the same side, afford no good fishing. Returning to the Tweed, the next tributary is the Caddon, running in two miles above the Ettrick. The trout in this stream are generally small, but they vary greatly in size. I once caught twenty dozen in it, weighing twenty-three pounds; but there were eight pounds of good trout among the number. There is a road to Stow, or if the angler takes the burn on the left, he will come upon the Leithen, *about four* miles above the village of Innerleithen.

The Leithen is a good stream, very much resembling the Gala in the number and quality of the trout which it contains. Three miles above Innerleithen, it divides into two branches. The smallest branch I consider the best. The Quair joins the Tweed on the opposite side from the Leithen. The trout are very abundant, but so small that they are not worth catching. The largest I hooked in the course of a day's fishing might be about a quarter of a pound. He is in the Quair still, for anything that I know to the contrary. The Eddleston falls in just at Peebles. It is not generally held in repute among anglers; but I have taken good basketfuls of trout out of it; but they are small. It is, however, quite free from par, which is a recommendation. The Manor runs in on the opposite side, about two miles above Peebles. It is rather a larger stream than the Eddleston. It is a very superior one, so far as the angler is concerned. The lower part of it is much infested with par, but you should begin about three miles from the mouth. You will then have nearly three miles further of good fishing. Creeper, May fly, and worm are all successful lures in the Manor, during their proper season. Generally, the trout are not large; but you will get a few of good size among the small ones. The Lyne joins the Tweed about three miles above Peebles. The lower part of this stream is little worth, the trout being for the most part poor and small; a few good ones may

however, be taken with the minnow. As the a
goes up, he will find the fish improve in size
quality. Some fair sport may be had in the T
a small tributary of the Lyne.

Biggar water enters the Tweed nine miles a
Peebles, and about two miles above Stobo. A
foot of Biggar, there are several good pools
streams; but they are much infested with
May fly should not be used here, but the mi
may be applied in a flooded water. The Holmes
the Biggar near its foot. It affords good fishing
its mouth almost to the very source. Par dc
frequent it; and the trout are easily taken. V
is a good lure. Though the banks of the strean
wooded, the trees will not be found troublesom

I will now give from my diary an accou
part of a season's fishing; beginning on the
February 1858. The weather, at this season, i
generally good for fishing; and it will be no
that as the season advances, the "takes" increa
weight. Up to the middle of April, it will b
derstood that I always fish down the stream, wh
with bait or artificial fly :—

1858,		Number.	V
Feb. 8.	Gala, down from Lugate foot—fly	4 doz.	
,, 11.	Do., below Stow, do.	3½ ,,	
,, 12.	Do., do., do.	4 ,,	
,, 13.	Do., do., do.	5½ ,,	
,, 15.	Do., above do., do.	4 ,,	
,, *16.*	*Do., near* Galashiels, do.	1½ ,,	

1856,		Number.	Weight.
Feb. 17.	Ettrick, with worm and sinker . .	2 doz.	7 lbs.
,, 24.	Gala, below Stow, fly and worm, with sinker on the worm tackle . .	2 ,,	7 ,,
,, 27.	Do., with do. and do.	3½ ,,	7 ,,
,, 28.	Do., below Stow, with do. and do. .	3 ,,	6 ,,
		32½ doz.	60 lbs.

Note.—When the day was fine I killed most with the small black spider; but when the day was dull with a blue wing and black hackle. If there is much sun during this month, you must use the worm tackle without a sinker. On some of the days mentioned above, I found ice on the Gala, until the afternoon. I have often killed trout with fly, with the ice floating down the stream.

The first part of March this year was so stormy that I could not fish. I have no entry, therefore, in my diary until

1858,			Number.	Weight.
Mar. 16.	Gala, below Stow,	fly . .	7 doz.	9½ lbs.
,, 17.	Do., do.,	do. . .	6 ,,	8 ,,
,, 18.	Do., below Bowland,	do. . .	3 ,,	5 ,,
,, 19.	Do., above Stow,	do. . .	3 ,,	5 ,,
,, 20.	Do., below do.,	worm . .	2 ,,	4 ,,
,, 22.	Leader, below Lauder,	fly . .	6 ,,	9 ,,
,, 23.	Ettrick, near the foot,	worm . .	4 ,,	6 ,,
,, 24.	Leader, below Lauder,	fly . .	6 ,,	9 ,,
,, 25.	Gala, near Galashiels,	. .	1 ,,	1½ ,,
,, 26.	Leader, below Lauder,	fly . .	5½ ,,	9 ,,
,, 27.	Gala, above Stow,	do. . .	4 ,,	5 ,,
,, 29.	Do., below do.,	do. . .	4 ,,	5½ ,,
,, 30.	Tweed, at Melrose,	do. . .	½ ,,	½ ,,
	Note.—This is too early in the season for Tweed.			
31.	Leader, below Lauder,	fly . .	4 ,,	8 ,,
			55 doz.	85 lbs.

April 2. Leader, below Lauder,
„ 5. Gala, below Stow
„ 6. Do., do.,
„ 7. Do., near Galashiels
„ 9. Do., below Stow
„ 10. Do., do.,
„ 12. Do., do.,
„ 16. Do., do.,
„ 17. Do., above do.,
„ 19. Do., do.,
„ 20. Leader,
„ 21. Tweed, at Dryburgh,
„ 22. Leader, below Lauder,
„ 23. Tweed, at Dryburgh,
„ 24. Do., do.,
„ 26. Do., do.,
„ 27. Foot of Gala to foot of Ettrick,
One of the trout weighed 2½ lbs.
„ 28. Tweed, at Melrose, creeper .

1858,			Number.	Weight.
		ber of brown flies came on the water notwithstanding. I had on a light wing on the two lowest hooks, and a spider on the top hook.		
May 4.	Ettrick,	fly . .	2½ doz.	7 lbs.
,, 5.	Leader, below Lauder,	do. . .	11½ ,,	20 ,,
,, 6.	Gala, below Stow,	creeper and fly .	12 ,,	18 ,,
,, 7.	Leader,	do. .	8 ,,	25 ,,
,, 8.	Gala,	do. .	3½ ,,	12 ,,
,, 10.	Leader, creeper		8 ,,	25 ,,
	Generally I went 3½ miles below Lauder, and fished up to it.			
,, 11.	Gala, below Stow,	creeper and fly .	3½ ,,	13 ,,
	If the day is clear and hot, creeper is the best lure; if dull, the artificial fly is preferable. In the afternoon, minnow is often successful.			
,, 12.	Tweed, foot of Gala,	creeper, fly .	2 ,,	10 ,,
,, 13.	Do., foot of Ettrick,	fly .	2½ ,,	7 ,,
	Day very unfavourable.			
,, 14.	Tweed, near Dryburgh,	do. .	2 ,,	11 ,,
,, 15.	Do., foot of Ettrick,	do. .	2½ ,,	7½ ,,
,, 17.	Do., Melrose,	do. .	4 ,,	8 ,,
,, 18.	Tweed, foot of Ettrick,	do. .	1½ ,,	4 ,,
,, 20.	Gala, above Fountainhall,	do. .	13 ,,	20 ,,
,, 22.	Do.,	with worm .	2 ,,	4 ,,
,, 23.	Do.,	fly .	13½ ,,	24 ,,
,, 24.	Tweed,	do. .	2½ ,,	7 ,,
,, 25.	Do.,	do. .	3 ,,	9 ,,
,, 26.	Lugate,	do. .	19 ,,	28 ,,
,, 28.	Cadon,	do. .	20 ,,	24 ,,
	Total for the month, in 22 days,		156½ doz.	324½ lbs.

1858,			Number.	Weight.
June 1.	Gala, above Stow,	May fly	10½ doz.	26 lbs.

,, [illegible], wo
,, 22. Do., d
,, 25. Leader, d

This is the greatest number and w
that I ever killed with worm,
sidering the time I fished.

Total for nine da

The largest capture of trout I b
made was in the Leader in the sp
fly. I did not note either the n
but I filled three large baskets.
readily, even when the dressing w
off it. In the Gala, in the mont
killed 51 lb. weight; a statement
by the testimony of credible witne

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